



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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STELLARIA CRASSIFOLIA **FLESHY STITCHWORT**

Fleshy Stichwort is a glabrous perennial with numerous, often matted, ascending to nearly prostrate stems that are 5-15 cm long and arising from slender roots. The opposite, narrowly lance-shaped leaves are 5-10 mm long, sessile, and have entire margins. Solitary flowers are borne on long spreading stalks in the upper leaf axils. The 5 separate, lance-shaped sepals are 2-3 mm long and have membranous margins. The 5 white, deeply bilobed petals are slightly longer. The fruit is a narrowly egg shaped capsule that is 1-2 mm longer than the sepals at maturity. Flowering in August, mature fruit in August-September.

The more common *STELLARIA LONGIPES* has stiff leaves and sepals greater than 3 mm long. *S. CALYCANTHA* and *S. UMBELLATA* have petals, if present, that are shorter than the sepals. A hand lens and technical key are needed for positive identification.